i. Management of natural forest and their rehabilitation;

ii. Increasing productivity of na tural forests and plantation areas,

iii. Socio-economic studies for motivating farmers to grow more trees under agroforestry;

iv. Policy changes required to encourage forestry activities under rural development programme;

v. Improving forestry education in the country;

vi. Extension programmes tor transferring reserach results from lab to land; and

vii. Developing a national library and information centre for forestry and allied sciences.

(c) Presently the Forestry research needs of Andhra Pradesh are being looked after by the Institute of Wood Science and Technology. Bangalore, an Institute of ICFRE. However, ICFRE proposes to create a separate Research Centre for Andhra Pradesh in Hyderabad. They have approached Government of Andhre Pradesh for allotment of land for this Research Centre near Hyderabad.

Polu+lon in Yamuna

2780. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's atten tion has been drawn to a press news item which appeared in the States man dated 17th January 1994 under caption "Yamuna reduced to a huge sewer."

(b) if so, whether the Yamuna river has been converted into a big sewer due to increasing effluents pour-inrr in the river:

(c) whether the Central Govern ment authorities have failed to check the growth of effluents in the river; and

(d) if so, the steps Government propose to take to check the pollution of the rover?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT & FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) Yamuna river is heavily polluted due to partly treated or" untreated domestic waste-water and industrial effluents particularly along the city limits of Delhi Mathura and Agra. An Action Plan for pollution abatement of the Yamuna has been approved by the Government under this plan pollution abatement works would be undertaken in six towns of Haryana and eight towns of Uttar Pradesh. In Delhi, the pollution abatement works would be 'undertaken under Delhi's own plan. Only two small treatment plants are part of the Yamuna Action Plan. Action has been initiated on the Yamuna Action Plan by the concerned State Governments,

Dumping of Garbage in Indian Ocean

2781. SHRI SOM PAL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are *aware* that some of the developed countries including Japan and the USA have been dumping huge quan tities of their garbage in Indian Ocean within our territory;

(b) if so. whether any studies have been attempted to find the quantities so dumped and the effect thereof on our environment:

(c) if so, what are the details thereof and what is being done to tackle the problem; and

(d) if not. what, are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT & FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a; No incidence of dumping of gar-bage in Indian Ocean within our tsr-litory has been noticed during the pollution monitoring programme of Department of Ocean, Developimentl, The Indian Coast Guard maintains constant survillance and vigil over the maritime zones to ensure that the marine environment is not polluted.

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

"Clearance of pending Projects"

27S2. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) how many projects concerning States Central levels worth over Rs. 100 crores in each case are still pending with his Ministry to date;

(b) what is the likely cost impact on account of delay caused by the late action I approval by the concerned Ministries! Departments | Agencies and also due to changing of priorities with the frequent change of officials; Ministries etc. both at State Central level; and

(c) what action Government have taken against such persons who are held responsible for inordinate delay and thereby loss to exchequer and country as a whole?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT & FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) Only 60 proposals with invest -ment of over Rs. 100 crores await en. vironment and forest clearance. How-over criteria adopted for proposals to be referred to the Ministry is the potential for causing environmental degradation and pollution of air, water and land and not the level of Investment.

(b) and (c) Carefully established procedure is followed to avoid delays for consideration and taking decisions on the proposals referred to the Ministry. Decision is normally taken within three months of receiv-ing all details, data and clarifications for environmental clearance and within one month for diversion of forest land. Delays have occurred mainly due to non availability of complete information from project authorities State Government.

Time and cost over runs arising out of cumulative action of individuals and agencies involved at the State and Central level is reviewed perio. dictally by the Ministry of Programme Implementation to overcome the Lottlenecks.

Encouragement to Social forestry in Andhra Pradesh

2783. DR. YELAMANCHILi SIVA-JI: Will the Minister of ENVIRON. WENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state that what steps are being taken to encourage Social forstry in Andhra Pradesh with details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT & FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): Afforestation and tree planting activities including social forestry are carried out in all States, including Andhra Pradesh, under various Central and State Plan Schemes like the Integrated Afforstation and Eco-Derve-lopment Projects Scheme, Fuelwood and Fodder Projects Scheme, Minor Forest Produce Scheme and Aerial Seeding Scheme of the Ministry of Environment and Forests; the Integ-mted Wastelands Development Project Scheme and Drought. Prone Areas Programme of the Ministry of Rural Dsvelopment, Soil Conservation in all eatchements of River Valley Scheme of the Ministry of Agriculture etc.

In addition, the World Bank assisted Rndhra Pradesh Forestry Project has been approved for implementation from the year 1994.95. The total cost' of the project, which covers the